

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

VOL. 41, NO. 1
JANUARY 1986

52 East 41 Street
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Up-and-Coming

Friday, Jan. 17, 5:30 p.m.—OPC Twilight Jazz honoring Benny Waters, Rumford Hall, \$5 Admission. First Come Seating.

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 5:30 p.m.—OPC Book Night with Dan Kurtzman, author of *Day of the Bomb: Countdown to Hiroshima*, Bogert Room.

Monday, Jan. 27—Deadline for submission of entries in Annual OPC Awards Competition. For entry blanks, phone Mary Novick, 679-9650.

Thursday, Feb. 13, Noon—Thursday Luncheon with Morton Frank and son, Alan, Edward R. Murrow Room.

Tuesday, March 18, 5:30 p.m.—OPC Book Night with Joseph Heller and Speed Vogel, authors of "No Laughing Matter," Bogert Room.

Luncheons: Members \$16, Guests \$20; 5:30 Programs: Members Free, Guests \$4. Cash bar all functions. Reservations required. Cancellations 48 hours in advance if food served or members will be charged. Reserve with Mary Novick 679-9650.

OPC Jazz Hails Benny Waters

The OPC Twilight Jazz session Jan. 17 honors THE Benny Waters, just 82 and just back from France.

Playing in honor of Benny—hailed in Paris as "world's most modern saxophonist more than 80 years old"—will be Adolphus "Doc" Cheatham, leader of the Big Apple's Sweet Basil group with Chuck Folds on piano, Al Hall, Bass, Jackie Williams drums.

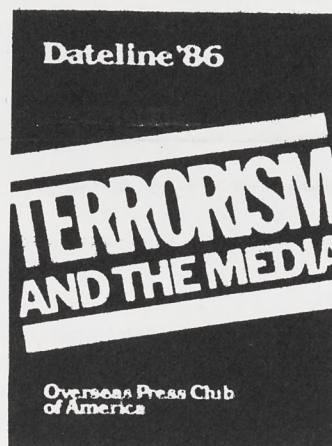
"They are the trimmest in the trade," says Jazz Chairman Wilma Dobie.

Honoring Benny Waters, OPC Twilight Jazz, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 17, Rumford Hall, \$5 Admission, Cash Bar, First Come Seating.

Reminder

Material for the bulletin must be received in the OPC Office by the 14th of the preceding month for publication the following month.

OPCers Rally to Produce Important Dateline '86



This year's OPC Dateline Magazine tackles the most challenging issue of the day: *Terrorism and the Media*.

The goal is to make it the most significant edition, and largest, we've published, according to publisher Henry Gellermann.

Distributed coincident with the annual OPC Awards Dinner in April, it will be edited by Murray Schumach. Pierre Cooley is art director.

Production costs of this four-color, glossy stock magazine are supported by advertising. Gellermann says the assistance of OPC members in providing suggestions and contacts for prospective corporate, communications, PR and other advertisers is imperative if we are to succeed.

Many ads will be needed if the magazine is to be as extensive as the subject demands and if it also is to provide OPC revenue as in the past. Rate cards and related material are available through the club office. Please do all join in this major effort of the OPC.

OPC Awards Applications

Deadline for applications entering the Annual OPC Awards Competition: Monday, Jan. 27. Members interested in receiving an application for the competition should write or phone the OPC office, 679-9650.

Our President Asks Your Advice on Club Activities

I am pleased to take this opportunity to wish all our members a wonderful and fruitful year.

I am always grateful for the support the members give to the OPC and all the officers and the Board of Governors are anxious to hear from you as to the way in which you would like the Club to serve you.

Our programs are a very important part of the way in which we hope to please our members, and we know that in the past many members felt that there weren't enough programs to either inform or entertain them.

We are very fortunate in having Rosalie Brody as the chairperson of the Program Committee, and along with such persons as Hester Hensell, Cheryl McCall and others, our calendar has been a busy one. Unfortunately, however, many of these programs are not sufficiently well subscribed to by our members, and consequently they either can end up as an embarrassment to us, an expense, or in many cases have to be cancelled.

It is for these reasons that I am asking the membership to think carefully about the type of programs they would like to have, and would attend. What speakers would you like to hear—what kind of panel discussions, luncheons or entertainment do you feel the OPC should provide?

In order to satisfy all of you and in order to secure a larger membership, we should have an expression of opinion from all of you. I shall look forward to an avalanche of letters which will help us to plan our programs effectively for the coming year.

**Anita Diamant
President**

Opinion: **We cheer UPI's 'greatest asset'**

The first lines of the introduction to the old UPI sales manual read something like this:

"UPI is the most significant development in journalism in the 20th century."

In a lot of ways and for a lot of reasons there was, and is, validity in that rather ebullient contention. There is one way, one reason, above all that at best gets passing mention from all the people who've been buying and selling, and dealing in, and not dealing in, UPI in the past few years.

Mostly, these people don't talk about it much because it's the one you can't really quantify. When they do talk about it, they're liable to call it "UPI's most valuable asset." The newsmen and women of the service are that asset.

UPI's chairman, ex-broadcast executive Luis Nogales, sent the OPC Bulletin a statement on his joy at achieving a purchase "recapitalization" agreement with Mexican newspaper magnate Mario Vasquez Rana.

What we're pleased to see Nogales say is that UPI's year-long program of austerity and reorganization in Chapter 11 "has worked thanks to the efforts of many people...most notably the employees of this company...I salute and thank them."

We believe these remarks about UPI's greatest asset are shared by the Downholders—longtime "Unipressers" who eventually moved on, so-named for the perpetual "downhold" on expenses that was, and is, a mark of the service.

Within the OPC, correspondents and ex-correspondents talk about UPI and its recent troubles. The first thing they mention is their legacy from UPI—so many began their careers with UP, and later UPI.

Never was the pay very good. But UPI people stayed on and performed admirably in the most trying of circumstances. They still do.

One of AP's editors remarked privately, during UPI's worst period, when morale was said to have hit bottom:

"You know, the fascinating thing is, everytime we let down our guard, even a little bit, on a breaking story, we get clobbered."

What makes UPI worth saving, the Downholders will tell you, is the spirit and dedication of its veterans and the bright young people who gravitate to this thankless cause.

This greatest asset is a reason too seldom recognized in arguments for preservation of the service.

1st Thursday Lunchers Brace for Frank & Son

90-to-1 Irene Corbally Kuhn's Thursday Luncheon talk Jan. 8 will have long since occurred by the time that great ponderous, plodding pachyderm, the U.S. Postal Service, delivers this newsletter.

So we'll report on her appearance next month and recount now the exciting news that Morton Frank and his son, Alan, will head the bill for the February lunch which will be a Second Thursday instead of a First Thursday. Before you get confused, please simply jot down the date: Feb. 13.

Frank & Son are sure to be a big draw.

Morton, member of the OPC board, chairman emeritus of Family Weekly and a raconteur of some renown, is currently a newspaper and publishing consultant. Son Alan is an editor at Forbes at the epicenter of world business reporting.

The February Thursday Lunch, Noon, Thursday, Feb. 13, with Morton Frank and son, Alan, Edward R. Murrow Room, Members \$16, Guests \$20. Reserve with Mary Novick, 679-9650.

Correction:

Herb Kupferberg, we're so sorry.

The December OPC Bulletin, which reported on your great First Thursday presentation carried a photo of the late Bob Pearsall captioned with your name. Just how we managed this terrible goof is something of a mystery. The photo was to have accompanied Bob's obit in the October issue but never made it. We beg forgiveness for the way it finally did appear.

OPC stalwart **Bernard Lovell** checks in on return from Geneva where he was long-time correspondent for Journal of Commerce after years with International Air Transport Assn. and Alitalia. Bernard, ensconced in Greenwich Village, is retired from Euro beat but geared to free lance with loads of expertise on aviation, transportation, Euro affairs, etc., beats.

Meg Whitcomb, OPCer and author of Dear Meg column syndicated to 100 papers on *UME*, has taken to the air on *WMCA* with call-in program 3-4 p.m. weekdays, 2-4, Saturdays. She'll discuss anything but politics and religion if you call 212-570-WMCA. She has new book, *How to Write the Ten Most Important Letters of Your Life* being published this spring by Warner. She'll fill in for Barry Gray, too. Whew!

Keep in Touch!

Your fellow members want to know where you are, how you are and what you are doing. We want to tell them in the OPC Bulletin. Our thanks to the many members who've dropped us a note or card to this end. Please also feel free to let us know how we might improve The Bulletin. And pass along a story tip or two.

Obits

Past OPC President **Will Yolen**, writer, author and world champion kite-flyer, died Nov. 19 in Hatfield, Mass. He was 77. Later published in most major national magazines as a freelance, he was Managing Editor-Europe for ABC early on, went on to WNEW, Warner Brothers, publicity for '39 World's Fair. But his great love was kite flying and the promotion thereof. He once defeated Maharajah of Bharatpur in four-hour kite duel, later set record for most kites flown on a string, 178, and longest kite flight, 7 days, 1 hour; authored books on the sport.

OPCer **Arthur Rothstein**, for 25 years photography director at Look, later an editor at Parade, died at his New Rochelle, N.Y., home Nov. 11. He was 70. Rothstein was best known as a photo journalist whose vivid pictures of the Dust Bowl are considered among the classic pictures of the 1930s.

Doug Storer, author of *Amazing But True* newspaper column, radio pioneer, died Dec. 4 in Clearwater, Fla. He was 86. World traveler, manager of columnist Bob Considine and of Ripley's Believe It or Not, he published 21st book, *Encyclopedia of Amazing but True Facts* in '82. While with Blackman ad agency, he was first person to package national advertising on radio in '20s; is credited with boosting early careers of Durante, Gleason, Horne, Como, Sinatra, Crosby, many others.

OPCer **Ronald J. Taggiasco**, Rome bureau manager of *Business Week*, died of heart attack in Rome Nov. 18. He was 52. Taggiasco, for nearly 20 years, covered Italy and Middle East, specializing on oil situation. AP Rome bureau chief Dennis Redmont writes Taggiasco's friends there have established award in his name for the best economics student at American Overseas School. To contribute write: American Overseas School of Rome, Taggiasco Economics Prize, Via Cassia 811, 00189 Rome, Italy.

Henry Cassidy's New Posting

Henry Cassidy had a surprise for the First Thursday lunchers—the revelation of his new assignment.

We thought he was going to talk about Moscow and his days as a foreign correspondent for the *New York Herald-Tribune* and *New York Daily News*.

And he did, a bit, recalling the 1940 purge; the two bureaus there in “deep freeze” period, and when everything opened up during World War II (“We were all pals”) followed by the cold war and the return of the deep freeze for correspondents in 1947.

“They used to say nothing changes... Always there is the eternal, immutable Mother Russia,” he said. But it has changed: the anti-alcohol campaign, Coca-cola, people are polite, better dressed and the stores are crowded although selling junk, he said. “It is a different Russia now, a Russia I don’t know.”

Plainly, Cassidy was impatient with the recollections. He wanted to get on to the work he’s doing now. He has become an historian, a town historian.

“For retirees,” he said, “I have found the ideal job.”

In this unpaid job to which he was appointed by the town supervisor of East Fishkill in New York’s Dutchess County, he said, “My assignment is to collect, preserve and interpret a record of human activity. What I do is get the story.”

For Henry Cassidy, in that sense, things haven’t changed that much. He still gets the story.

He’s had all sorts of experiences in the job. Just a few:

- Work with the Lions in restoration from an eyesore to “a jewel” of a cemetery desecrated by time and vandals.
- Revelation of an 18th century cemetery for slaves and its restoration by black organizations in the area as a monument to the black community before and after the revolution.
- A major event this year: Celebration of the Tercentenary of the Rombout Patent of Oct. 17, 1685, the first land grant in Dutchess County extending over 85,000 acres from Beacon to Poughkeepsie.

He found the research for that occasion fascinating: looking up the documentation of the grant, of which there is plenty; studying the original map, now preserved by the New York Historical Society and showing wigwams and “Ye Frenchman’s Houses.” He produced a booklet for the occasion.

Great Capa Pix in Jan. OPC Exhibit



Robert Capa, Naples, '43

Some of the all-time great Robert Capa photos, some never on public view until just recently, are on display in the OPC Gallery through January.

The show is particularly timely, according to Photo Awards Committee Chairman Charles Rotkin, because of the new dual publication of *Robert Capa, A Biography* by Richard Whelan and *Robert Capa: Photographs*, edited by Cornell Capa and Richard Whelan, both published by Knopf.

The exhibit, embarking on national tour after a showing at the International Center of Photography, also is a prelude to the OPC Annual Awards this spring in which the Robert Capa Gold Medal Award is given by *Life Magazine*, this year including a \$1,000 honorarium, in memory of Capa who was killed on assignment for *Life* in Indo-China in 1954.

Cassidy’s involved with the state Department of Transportation to identify historic sites that should be dug for artifacts before they are covered by road construction. Right now, he said, an archaeological dig is planned on an access to Route 82, site of what was once the Stockholm House.

“I hope,” said Cassidy, reveling in his enthusiasm about his new assignment, “that this talk will encourage some of you to become historians, too.”

Thirty-two OPCers and guests were on hand for Cassidy’s First Thursday talk, last of the highly successful fall season, a prelude to great things in ’86.

Items

Paris Revisited

C. Haynes Thompson, now residing in Montgomery, Ala., passes along a feature from the *Montgomery Independent* on how he and wife, Eva, found Paris in the fall, “the city we had lived in, known and loved for so many years.”

We excerpt portions of interest to correspondents.

The Concorde: “It was like old times staying at the Ambassador Concorde. Only a block from the United Press office on the Rue des Italiens, it was the hotel the UP used to put up visiting correspondents back in the late 1940s and early 1950s when I was one of its staff correspondents.

Back to UP: “Visiting the old office at 2 Rue des Italiens this time was particularly touching. The same front door, next to the Royal Lieu bar that once served as our downstairs ‘office,’ the same glass-enclosed, slow-moving elevator and the same fourth-floor entrance were all still there, unchanged from the Thanksgiving Day in 1945 when I began working there.” Visited with UPI bureau chief **Marie Colvin**.

Memorable encounter: “Dinner with **Greg MacArthur** and his wife, Nancy... MacArthur is a former Montgomery Advertiser reporter who went on to become a staff correspondent for the Associated Press in Paris... He is also the son of my old friend, the late Rod MacArthur, the Chicago philanthropist whose foundation endows geniuses.

“It was with Rod MacArthur that I shared an apartment on the Ile de la Cite shortly after World War II with AP correspondents Joe Dynan and Bob Eunson, both now dead of cancer.”

Scribe bar: A disappointment was “seeing what they had done to the old Hotel Scribe bar when the hotel was renovated... and the bar moved upstairs from the basement and modernized. The hotel was home to American correspondents during the war.”

Harry’s, too: “Paying a nostalgic call at Harry’s Bar... and finding the famous landmark for Americans jam-packed and jumping with standing room only.”

OPCer **Ranan Lurie**, whose editorial cartoons are distributed in some 400 papers in 57 countries by *Universal Press Syndicate* and *Editors Press Service*, now doing “video editorial cartoons” for public TV’s *MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour*, using electronic paint box, computer and special sound effects.

OPC's 'Nam Reunion

The OPC is planning a reunion of the correspondents who covered the Vietnam conflict and of government and military people involved in the coverage. Board members Al Kaff and Bryce Miller need the help of OPCers in development of this event. Call the OPC with suggestions and contacts. Let us know if you can work on it.

NASA's Way

We've got a press release from the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication on the selection of a journalist to ride the Space Shuttle.

The association got picked by NASA to pick the journalist, as best we can figure from the release. NASA Administrator James M. Beggs, who since took a leave from the job amid the General Dynamics furor, gets quoted up top with a crack: "...there are those who would like to put some journalists in orbit—permanently." But NASA will bring this one back, Beggs says, kindly.

The association press release gets around to telling how they're going to make the selection. There are five regional panels to which applications due Jan. 15 get forwarded. These panels "under the direction of a coordinating school of journalism" pick eight candidates each. Then there's a national panel to winnow the field to five. NASA picks the winner in April.

That national panel is interesting. There are some great names of news-people there: Vermont Royster, Elmer Lower, Osborne Elliott. Then come a few J-school types and then they've got a college president or two, an ex-astronaut, a woman aviator, a law professor. These people don't seem to have much to do with journalism that we can see.

Also interesting is what Dr. Albert T. Scroggins, dean emeritus, University of South Carolina College of Journalism, says about who they select.

Scroggins is the "chief program officer" of this selection process. He says, "We're looking for someone who can communicate effectively and who is used to communicating with a mass audience, and we hope this person will be articulate enough to broadcast from space in a way that would show us what they have observed and are doing there."

The release doesn't say whether this means only "talking heads" need apply.

We'll ask Scroggins to clear things up a bit in time for our next issue.

Book Nights: Dan Kurtzman Jan 21 Heller-Vogel March 18

OPC's '86 Book Night series opens with a bang with the appearance Jan. 21 of the author of *Day of the Bomb: Countdown to Hiroshima*.

Dan Kurtzman will discuss his book, sharing a panel with old Asia hands Al Kaff, OPC Vice President, and OPCer Ed Hymoff.

Joseph Heller, he of Catch-22, and Speed Vogel are the authors for the March 18 Book Night. Their new book, *No Laughing Matter* (Putnam), is the subject.

Two great book nights: Jan. 21, March 18, 5:30 p.m., Members Free, Guests \$4, Cash Bar, Bogert (We've got to stop calling it the Bogart Room, Chemist Club says) Room. Reserve with Mary Novick, 679-9650.

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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NEW APPLICATIONS

ACTIVE RESIDENT

Clell Bryant—Senior Editor, Readers Digest
Sponsors: *Louis Weintraub—Paul R. Mosher*

ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT

Wendy Lowe—Freelance Journalist
Sponsors: *Fred E. Steele 3rd—Thomas O'Neil*

ASSOCIATE RESIDENT

Julie S. Delgregg—Staff Writer, Traffic World Magazine

Sponsors: *John M. Ross—Rosalie Brody*

Harry Swartz—Editor, Science Adviser, Mundo Medico, S.A.

Sponsors: *Harry C. Levin—Felice Levin*

G. Bruce Woodin—Author & Journalist, Magazines for Industry

Sponsors: *Paul R. Mosher—Theodore Burgert*

NEW MEMBERS

ACTIVE RESIDENT

Linda G. Gomez

REINSTATEMENTS

ACTIVE RESIDENT

Bill D. Miller

ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT

L. Clayton Willis

Alice-Leone Moats

ASSOCIATE NON-RESIDENT

Herman W. Land

New OPCer **H.L. Stevenson**, ex-UPI editor-in-chief, is new corporate editor of *Crain Communications*, based in New York. HLS exuberantly recounted at OPC Xmas party wide range of activities direction of growing Crain Syndicate, Crain News Service as well as evaluation of personnel and editorial product of Crain's array of publications.

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